

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A disk drive comprising:
a head configured to read recorded data from a disk medium;
a read channel configured to reproduce data from a read signal which is output from the head,
a command unit configured to instruct a copying operation for allowing the data which is reproduced by the read channel to be transferred to ~~an external device~~ a copying destination drive;
an interface unit configured to effect a data transfer relative to the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive; and
a control unit configured to, in accordance with a copying operation instructed by the command unit, perform the copying operation ~~while allowing the reproduced data to be transferred to the external device through the interface unit,~~ the control unit transferring a write command for allowing the reproduced data to be written into a recording medium in the copying destination drive and the reproduced data to the copying destination drive through the interface unit.
2. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the command unit includes a register configured to hold copying operation instructing information.
3. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the command unit includes a register configured to hold copying operation instructing information and an input device configured to input the information.
4. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the control unit performs a normal read operation for reading data from the disk medium or a normal write operation for writing data onto the disk medium and, when the copying operation is instructed by the command unit, performs the copying operation in preference to the normal read operation or write operation.

5. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the command unit includes a register configured to hold the copying operation instructing information and, by referring to the register at a predetermined timing, the control unit performs the copying operation in accordance with the information set by the register.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein, before performing the copying operation, the control unit makes a data transmit request for the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive via the interface unit and performs the copying operation upon receipt of a response to the transmit request which comes ~~from~~ from the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive.

8. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the interface unit includes a register configured to hold the copying operation instructing information and the register holds the information input from an input unit in the command unit and is accessed from the control unit.

9. (Currently Amended) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein, in a copying source disk drive connected to an external interface unit of a host system and connected via ~~on an~~ an internal interface signal line of the host system to a the copying destination disk drive, the interface unit is connected to the external interface unit in accordance with a copying operation by the control unit to transmit the reproduced data to the copying destination drive.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring data read from a disk medium to ~~an external device~~ a copying destination drive in a disk drive, the method comprising:

receiving a copying operation command;

conducting a communication with the ~~external device as a copying destination device~~ drive in accordance with the copying operation command; and

transferring data which is read out from the disk medium and a write command for allowing the data to be written into a recording medium to the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive when a communication link is established to the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the disk drive has an input unit configured to input the copying operation instructing information and a register configured to hold that information, further comprising when the information is set to the register, receiving the copying operation command.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the conducting comprises making a transmit request for the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive, and which further comprises establishing the communication link to the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive in accordance with a response from the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising transmitting a command for instructing the writing of the data to a recording medium in the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive, when the read-out data is transferred to the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive connected as a copying destination.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the transferring comprises transferring data from the disk medium to another disk drive as the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive via an interface unit for connecting with the ~~external device~~ copying destination drive based on a predetermined interface standard.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (New) A disk drive comprising:
a head configured to read recorded data from a disk medium;
a read channel configured to reproduce data from a read signal that is output from the head,
a switch configured to instruct a copying operation for allowing the data reproduced by the read channel to be transferred to a copying destination drive, said switch being activated by a user to initiate the copying operation;
an interface unit configured to effect a data transfer relative to the copying destination drive; and

a control unit configured to generate a write command in accordance with the copying operation instructed by the switch and to transfer the write command and the reproduced data through the interface unit to the copying destination drive, said write command being used by the copying destination drive to write the reproduced data on its medium.

17. (New) The disk drive of claim 16, wherein the switch is manually activated by the user to initiate the copying operation.